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**Translation methods of French medieval scholars or how medical vocabulary from the past was translated into the vernacular.**

The formation of modern French medical vocabulary has followed strict morphological patterns, called the “neoclassical composition”. This linguistic process, described a.o. by Cottez (1980) and Namer (2007) for French, involves the combination of morphemes of Latin or Greek origin which can’t be used autonomously, like for example, *uvéosclérite* meaning ‘uveoscleritis, inflammation of the uvea’, composed of *uvéo-* and *-sclérite*. Neoclassical composition has its origins in the 17th and 18th century, with the emergence of modern chemistry and physics and the work of French scientists like Morveau and Lavoisier. However, scientific, thus also medical vocabulary already emerged in the 13th but mostly in the 14th century, when Latin texts were translated into French for the first time.

This last decade, the work conditions of those medieval translators, as well as their methodologies have been studied increasingly by scholars. For example, the compendium *Lexiques scientifiques et techniques : Constitution et approche historique* (2007), edited by Bertrand, Gerner and Stumpf, or, the work of Bazin-Tacchella (a.o. 2007), which analyses the anatomical terminology used in the different translations of the *Chirurgia Magna* of Guy de Chauliac, as well as the article of Goyens and Dévière (2007), which investigates the vocabulary of fevers, as found in the Latin and vernacular translation of the pseudo-aristotelian *Problemata physica*. Vedrenne-Fajolles (2012) has also analysed the pathological vocabulary, more specifically, the skin diseases. We would also like to mention the ongoing project *Créalscience*, an online dictionary of technical and scientific medieval French vocabulary.

Arabic, Greek or Latin were the almost exclusive languages in which scientific texts were written in the Middle Ages (Lusignan 1989). Therefore it was common practice for French scholars to learn to read and write in Latin, because their research was based on Latin texts. These scholars made the first French translations and borrowed Latin words, because it was easy to understand Latin loanwords in French scientific texts.

For this paper, we have selected a small semantic field, namely the anatomical terminology concerning the eye. More specifically, we would like to study the linguistic methods used by the authors and translators of this period for expressing medical terminology missing from the target language, which is French (loanwords, derivations, compositions, etc.). In other words, how did the medieval authors and translators translate these Latin texts from the past and how did it affect the terminology they used to express concepts related to the eye? These are the research questions we will try to answer in our paper by analysing a corpus of French medieval medical texts.

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